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CONTAINER FOR COLLECTING AND DISPOSING OF ANIMAL EXCRETA

This invention relates to a container for collecting and disposing of animal excreta and

- 5 In particular to a hand held apparatus for collecting dog's excreta.

Various cities and towns throughout the world have introduced legislation making it a public offence for a dog owner to allow a dog to foul the pavements or public parks without removing the excreta thereafter. An apprehended person walking the animal is often subject to a fixed penalty fine. In any event, this is an unhygienic practice particularly in parks or areas where children are prone to be playing. The impact of both the deterrent of a fine and increased public awareness in relation to hygiene has produced a need for an apparatus to remove excreta from pavements, grass and other surfaces upon which a dog excretes during exercise or during any other time spent outdoors.

A variety of apparatuses have been developed to assist pet owners with the task.

- 15 removing excreta from a surface shortly after it has been deposited by a cat

US 3740 088 discloses a device for picking up and disposing of animal fecal excreta which includes a handle having a disposable container mounted at one end thereof. The container has a cavity opening outwardly of said handle and at least one rib within the cavity

- 20 whereby the excreta engages with the wall and the rib of the container cavity. Following pickup, the open end of the container is closed by pressing the container against a snap-on cover. Thereafter, the closed container is disengaged from the handle by sliding a collar, slidably mounted on the handle against the container to force it from the end of the handle

WO 89/08744 discloses a refuse collector having a receiver for the refuse and a

- 25 vacuum cleaner unit for collecting the refuse and transmitting it to the receiver. A source of

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CLAIMS

- 5 1. A hand-held portable container (1) comprising a housing (3, 131) having one or more shells (5, 101) releasably mounted thereon, the or each shell (5, 101) having an opening for receiving excreta and having an impaling means including a plurality of tines (8) disposed within the shell (8) for impaling excreta characterised in that the housing (3, 131) has an aerosol cartridge (4, 136) including a freezing component mounted thereon, the or each shell having an aperture for receiving aerosol from the aerosol cartridge.
- 10 2. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tines (8) are provided by teeth (105) tapered so that the edges of the teeth (105) closest to the opening of the shell (5, 101) are thin enough to allow at least partial penetration of excreta received into the opening.
- 15 3. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the teeth (105) extend radially inwardly from the shell (5, 101).
- 20 4. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 2 or 3, wherein the teeth (105) are symmetrically disposed about the central axis of the shell (5, 101).
- 25 5. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shells (5, 101) are nestable with one another.
- 30 6. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more shells (5, 101) are held on one end of the housing (3, 131) by a collet (141).

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7. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
wherein the shells (5, 101) are held in place by friction.
8. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims,
5 wherein the shell (5, 101) have a flared open end.
9. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
wherein the housing (3, 131) comprises two identical semi-cylindrical plastics
mouldings (133).
10. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims,
wherein a second end of the housing accommodates means for actuating the
aerosol cartridge (4, 136) so that a predetermined portion of aerosol is dispensed.
- 15 11. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the actuating
means comprises a button (150) housed in the second end of the housing and being
depressible so as to dispense aerosol from the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).
12. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the button (150) is
20 normally urged out of the housing (3, 131) by a biasing means on the nozzle of the
aerosol cartridge (4, 136).

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13. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 11 or 12, wherein the travel of the button (150) is selected to accommodate a wide range of aerosol cartridges (4, 136).
- 5 14. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shells (5, 101) have an aperture for receiving the aerosol from the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).
- 10 15. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the aperture (104) is disposed centrally of the shell (5, 101) and is substantially aligned with a dispensing nozzle in use.
- 15 16. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the impaling means is removably mounted on the shell.
17. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the impaling means comprises a base located outside the shell and the plurality of tines outstanding therefrom, extending through and disposed within the shell, the shell having a plurality of apertures aligned with the tines for slidably engagement therewith.
- 20 18. A method of collecting animal excreta comprising the steps of contacting the excreta with a solid body, the method being characterised by dispensing aerosol including a freezing component around the excreta and solid body so as to form a bond between the excreta
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and the solid body and subsequently lifting the solid body so as to remove the excreta from the surface it was deposited on.

19. A hand-held portable container substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to Figs. 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawings.
20. A hand-held portable container substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to Figs. 4 to 19 of the accompanying drawings.
21. A method of collecting animal excreta substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

